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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 12 July 1984

1. [] visited yesterday on TDY. I told him that we and BBC were both very pleased with how well the Islamabad circuit has been functioning since his and [] demarche to the Pakistani PTT around the first of the year. Will said that the Pakistanis were friendly and wanted to cooperate, but that nothing ever got done without forceable prodding. Will has got good cooperation from the Embassy's telephone technician (a Pakistani) and he and the technician and [] had actually taken their equipment down to PTT to hook it up and show the people in charge what the problems were. The troubles were then cleared up in a few days. He now hopes to be able to try the same technique in Karachi where the circuit enters the satellite. []

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Will went on to say that much of the trouble encountered with the circuit originates with British Telecom or the BBC. BBC will complain about the circuit but they are very inattentive; they will overdrive the circuit, fail to report problems and often cannot be reached by phone when Will needs to report problems or urgent items. He particularly complained that BBC often fails to notice program shifts. He has been reporting these to the bureau. I said that we had sensed this and that he should go ahead and work through [] if he can't get satisfaction from BBC. []

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Relations with the Embassy [] are excellent. The [] is a long time reader of FBIS materials and now gets his own copy of the file (plus the Trends) which Will provides. The Embassy gets three copies of the file. One goes to the Ambassador, one to the DCM and the third to the Political Section. The Political Section

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[] so the special service was set up. Will also does occasional translation jobs (Russian) [] He is cruising the bookstores once a month and has passed along a number of items on military or nuclear affairs to Production Group. []

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Will says the unit's quarters are good and he is satisfied. He feels that when he is replaced the residential quarters should be moved from "B" block to "C" block to be across the hall from the operations area. The GSO is agreeable to such a switch. []

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Will feels we should do a cruising survey in Lahore some time or other. He feels reception might be better there. There is a consulate in Lahore. []

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25X1 I asked if there had been any further activity by RFE/RL. He said VOA now has a correspondent in Islamabad and that is all. He said he doubted RFE/RL will try anything further; [] would oppose it. [] 25X1

25X1 Will asked about "vetting" [] to do some Urdu translations in his spare time. Will had offered Gulf some Urdu translations Siddiqui had done on nuclear topics (along with some items taken from the English-language Pakistani press) but that Molly had refused the Urdu on the grounds that the bureau could not stand behind an item they had not done themselves. I said that I was reluctant to have [] get into translation work. Instead I felt he should explore setting up a FAX service between Islamabad and Gulf. I asked him to talk to ED about this and test his phone connections when he gets back to post. [] 25X1

25X1 Will asked about preserving [] grade. All the locals were reclassified at FSN-08 by State some time ago; then State overruled itself and said they would all be lowered one grade in August 1985. Will wants to keep [] at FSN-08 as "assistant supervisor" of the Unit when he (Will) is away. A simple memo within the Embassy should do the trick. I said this was fine and that some distinction should be kept between [] and the other two techs. 25X1

(cc: D/FBIS, C/MOD, C/ED, AC/DRD, C/Gulf Bureau, C/London Bureau)

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